

Research has proven that music is vital to a student's education. Music education benefits language development, spatial-temporal skills, and can lead to a higher IQ and increased test scores. Music also brings students together and gives them incentives to practice and strive for more self-improvement.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the administrators, the teachers, instructors, the parents, and the students in these schools and districts for their impressive dedication to music education. They put a lot of time and effort into their music programs, and all that hard work is really paying off.

WELCOMING PRESIDENT MOON

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in welcoming President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea on the occasion of his visit to Washington this week. This visit is an important opportunity to further the strong bonds of cooperation and friendship between our two countries.

As North Korea continues to threaten our allies and pursue its destabilizing missile program, including tests of intercontinental ballistic missiles, this meeting comes at a pivotal time. The United States and the Republic of Korea must continue to stand together to contain this threat and ensure the security and safety of this strategically important region.

Earlier I sent a letter urging Speaker RYAN to invite President Moon Jae-in to speak before a joint meeting of Congress so all Members can hear firsthand his perspective of these shared challenges. If not possible during this brief visit, I hope he will address this body in the future.

Once again, I extend my heartfelt welcome to President Moon Jae-in, and I express my commitment to furthering the vital economic, security, and cultural relationships between our two countries.

WELCOMING PRESIDENT MOON JAE-IN TO AMERICA

(Mr. COFFMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in welcoming President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea to the United States of America.

Next week will mark his first official visit to Washington, D.C., since he assumed the Presidency of his country. This represents a continuation of the friendship between our two nations.

This October will mark the 64th anniversary of the mutual defense treaty between our two countries. This land-

mark legislation continues to be a vital component to peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

Once again, I look forward to welcoming President Moon Jae-in to the United States, and I look forward to continuing our partnership with the Republic of Korea.

REJECT SENATE HEALTHCARE BILL

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, another Republican healthcare bill that the nonpartisan, bipartisan Congressional Budget Office tells us will rip away healthcare from 22 million Americans, raise premiums—especially on older Americans—and cut Medicaid by roughly \$800 billion.

The Senate Republican's plan is especially cruel for New York City. Not only will millions lose coverage, but sharp Medicaid cuts will cost hospitals over \$5 billion, and fewer seniors will be able to afford nursing homes and home care providers.

But the bill saves its worst for women. It cuts Federal funding for a year for Planned Parenthood clinics that provide essential healthcare to millions of American women. It allows States to easily waive guaranteed coverage for benefits like maternity. In short, women will have to pay more for essential healthcare because we are women, and women will have less access to healthcare because we are women.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Senate to reject this cruel and merciless bill.

WELCOMING PRESIDENT MOON

(Mr. MACARTHUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, the friendship between the United States and the Republic of Korea is based not only on shared, strategic, and economic interests, but also on shared values. We share a commitment to democracy and to political, religious, and economic liberty. It is a joy to welcome President Moon Jae-in to Washington, D.C. I congratulate him on his election, and I wish him a successful summit.

But, for me, the relationship with South Korea is also deeply personal. My wife and I adopted two of our three children, David and Isabella, from Korea. I am deeply grateful to the people of South Korea for my children and for giving me the family that I love so much.

But not every family on the Korean Peninsula is so fortunate. We remember those who live under the oppression of the North Korean regime that has no regard for the dignity of human persons. We condemn the horrifying

crimes of that regime, and I express my hope for the reunification of Korea.

We express our firm commitment to the ongoing friendship with South Korea, rooted in our shared values of freedom and democracy.

FREE DR. AFRIDI FROM PAKISTANI PRISON

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the day that Osama bin Laden, the world's number one terrorist, met his maker was a great day in the war on terror. But finding America's most wanted terrorist hiding in Pakistan was no easy feat.

Pakistani Dr. Afridi worked with our CIA to help determine and confirm Osama's hiding place in Pakistan by using DNA evidence. But after Osama bin Laden was killed, Pakistan threw Dr. Afridi in jail.

Why?

Because he helped the United States find Osama bin Laden.

Pakistan claims to be United States' number one counterterrorism ally, yet they hypocritically hold this hero in a Pakistani prison. Pakistan is no friend of the United States. They are on the wrong side on the war on terror. Pakistan hid Osama bin Laden from the world.

Dr. Afridi deserves a medal for aiding the elimination of Osama bin Laden, not life in prison. Pakistan should free him, and it is time to declare Pakistan a state sponsor of terrorism.

And that is just the way it is.

WEALTH CARE OVER HEALTHCARE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF CARIB- BEAN AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, at this time I rise to take this Special Order hour on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus.

It is with great honor that I rise as coanchor for the next 60 minutes. We have a chance to speak directly to the American people on the issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, Congress, and the constituents we represent, as well as all Americans.

This evening, myself and coanchor MARC VEASEY will discuss two topics: wealth care over healthcare and the contributions of Caribbean Americans.

On the matter of healthcare, Senate Republicans have finally released their draft version of the House-passed American Health Care Act, and it is clear why they kept it behind closed doors all this time. The bill is worse than the one that was passed in the House, with deeper cuts to Medicaid